

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claim 1. Thus, claims 2-5, 9, 10, 13-18, 28-32 are now pending in the application. In response to the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matter.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 9, 10, 13, 14 and 28-32 and indicating that claims 3-5 and 16-18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over over newly cited Rich (U.S. Patent No. 5,592,731) in view of Huang (U.S. Patent No. 5,592,731), Tang (U.S. Patent No. 5,811,905) and Maruyama (U.S. Patent No. 6,194,800). Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rich in view of Huang, Tang and newly cited Scofield (U.S. Patent No. 2,731,268).

By this Amendment, Applicant has rewritten claim 2 in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1.¹ Applicant respectfully submits that it is quite clear that the combined references do not teach or suggest that an interval in the circumferential direction between a center of air gaps of adjacently formed slot opening portions is not the same, as required by claim 2.

¹ Although the claims are under final rejection, the Examiner should enter the claim amendments since they does not raise new issues which would require further consideration and/or search, and reduce the issues for appeal.

Although the Examiner cites Maruyama (Figs. 41, 42 and 44) for allegedly disclosing “a stator with adjacent opening of center of air gaps of slot opening is not the same”, the interval (spacing) between the center of air gaps of adjacently formed slot opening portions is always the same in Maruyama’s stator. That is, Maruyama simply teaches that widths of adjacent slot opening portions may be different (e.g., S1 and S2 in Fig. 42). Similarly, the other cited references do not teach or suggest this feature of the present invention.

With regard to independent claim 15, the Examiner cites Scofield for allegedly disclosing a stator core including teeth with first and second projections which have different lengths. However, Scofield does not teach or suggest that “said first and second projections having different lengths so that an interval in a circumferential direction between a center of air gaps of adjacently formed slot opening portions between said teeth is alternated”, as required by claim 15. Instead, as shown in the single Figure of Scofield, the interval in a circumferential direction between a center of air gaps of adjacently formed slot opening portions between the teeth is the same (i.e., 60 degrees). That is, although Scofield teaches that the spacing B between centers of adjacent pole shanks 7 of field poles 2 differs from the spacing A between centers of adjacent pole shanks 7 separated by interpoles 4 (i.e., A is more than 60 degrees on center and B is less than 60 degrees on center), the field poles 2 are provided with projections 8 and 9 having different lengths so that spacing between centers of air gaps of adjacently formed slot opening portion between the field poles 2 is always 60 degrees. Further, the other cited references do not teach or suggest this feature of claim 15.

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Accordingly, claims 2 and 15 should be allowable because the combined references do not teach or suggest all of the features of the claims.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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